

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE MEETING**

June 18, 2001  
MAG Office, Mesquite Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Chairman	* Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
Mayor Ron Drake, Avondale	Tom Martinsen, Paradise Valley
Mayor Roy Delgado, El Mirage	* Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek
Ed Beasley, Glendale	Jan Dolan, Scottsdale
Stephen Cleveland, Goodyear	Bill Pupo, Surprise
*Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas, Litchfield Park	

\*Not present.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Regional Governance Task Force was called to order by Chairman Skip Rimsza at 1:40 p.m.

2. **Approval of June 11, 2001 Meeting Minutes**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Rimsza asked if there were changes to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the June 11, 2001 meeting minutes. Mayor Delgado moved, Mayor Drake seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. **Issues to be Studied by the Task Force**

James M. Bourey handed out copies of *The Arizona Republic* editorial written by Supervisor Don Stapley that was discussed at the June 11th meeting. He also handed out a compilation of news clips about MAG requested at the June 11, 2001 Task Force meeting. Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, stated that the articles date back approximately 10 years. She stated that the same comments have been made by the same people throughout this time frame. Ms. Taft noted that there are many positive press clippings not contained in the document. Mr. Bourey handed out a pie chart that showed the percentage that each area, such as transportation, air quality and general issues, has been considered by the Regional Council. Mr. Bourey noted that general issues include such areas as regional development and human services, etc. Mr. Bourey handed out a pie chart that showed FY 2002 revenues by source.

Mr. Martinsen asked if the transportation revenue included any sales tax revenue. Mr. Bourey replied that MAG programs approximately \$600 million annually in transportation, of which \$230 million is from sales tax revenue. Mr. Cleveland asked if the revenue included operating budget money. Mr. Bourey replied that was correct.

Mr. Bourey handed out a letter submitted by Mayor Hawker, who was unable to attend the meeting. The letter included Mayor Hawker's suggestions for six issues to be studied by the Task Force. The issues included: 1) The organizational structure and governance of MAG; 2) the roles and responsibilities of MAG, including transit planning; 3) appropriate membership to address the roles of MAG; 4) voting procedures, including voting, non-voting, and weighted voting; 5) the geographic extent of the region; and, 6) the name of the organization.

Chairman Rimsza stated that the six issues were good starting points for discussion. He asked members if they had additions or objections. Chairman Rimsza stated that what MAG controls needs to remain the focus. Mr. Pupo commented on the inclusion of transit planning. Mr. Bourey explained that MAG is the regional transportation planner, which includes transit planning. He noted that MAG subcontracts with RPTA for this service. Chairman Rimsza noted the possibility that funding for RPTA could come from cities that have passed a transit tax. He noted the importance of retaining the individuality of each city's transit service.

Mr. Martinsen moved that the six issues presented by Mayor Hawker be discussed by the Task Force. Mayor Delgado seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Formation of an Advisory Group

Mr. Bourey stated that an advisory group would be formed to serve in an advisory capacity to the Task Force and could include representatives from the business community, the Legislature and the public. Mr. Bourey stated that Ken Driggs, RPTA; Bill Beyer, CTOC; Mayor Douglas Coleman, Apache Junction; and Roc Arnett, ADOT State Board, have expressed interest in serving on the advisory group.

Ms. Dolan commented on how formal the composition of the group would be. As discussion evolves, the expansion of the group might be warranted to ensure broad-based input. Chairman Rimsza indicated that attempts would be made to make the group broad-based. He commented that continuous evolution of the group could impact their focus. Chairman Rimsza requested that members submit their suggestions to him and he would select eight or nine appointees.

Ms. Dolan recommended that Mary Peters, the leadership of the Arizona Senate and House, and the Governor's Office, or their designees, serve on the advisory group. Because health and welfare issues are becoming increasingly more important, input from representatives in these fields may be important.

Mr. Beasley commented on including Apache Junction rather than all of Pinal County. He commented on including those who have been at the table.

Chairman Rimsza stated that the Regional Council is considering membership of the business community on the Regional Council. Ms. Dolan stated that examination of the six points could reveal who would have pertinent information. She suggested including non-profit and business representation on the advisory group.

Mayor Drake asked for clarification of the appointment process. Chairman Rimsza explained the Chair of the Regional Council has the authority to appoint committee members. He indicated that he wanted Task Force input on the advisory group, after which he would make the appointments.

Mr. Martinsen suggested the inclusion of lobbyists active with the Legislature. Discussion centered on those who were appointed to serve on the Governance Task Force. Chairman Rimsza stated that no one who expressed interest was left off the Task Force, except in the situation where a conflict existed. He indicated that there had been a conflict where both a Mayor and Manager of a city had volunteered, so only one individual could be appointed. In addition, one request was received after the appointments had been made.

Mr. Beasley commented that someone vested in the MAG process is needed, rather than someone that needs to be educated. Mr. Pupo commented on including an elected County official. Chairman Rimsza indicated that the County is a MAG member agency already. Mr. Pupo stated that by including them in the governance process, MAG would be aware of their position. Chairman Rimsza stated that the County has never expressed dissatisfaction with MAG actions. They voted on all the issues considered at Regional Council. Chairman Rimsza stated that a list of potential advisory group appointees would be sent to Task Force members prior to finalization.

5. Consideration of Hiring a Consultant to Assist the Task Force

Mr. Bourey stated that as part of forming the Task Force, the Regional Council also indicated that the Task Force may request consulting services once the scope of work is more clearly defined. He said that a consultant could facilitate meetings and discussions and provide expert input.

Chairman Rimsza discussed establishing a task force to assist in selecting a consultant. Mr. Beasley indicated that he would assist. Chairman Rimsza asked for a motion to establish this task force. Mr. Beasley moved, Mr. Pupo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Schedule of the Task Force

Mr. Bourey handed out copies of the Task Force meeting schedule. Mr. Bourey indicated that the Task Force was directed to prepare a progress report within 60 days of its first meeting and a final report no later than the end of the calendar year. Ms. Dolan asked if the meeting schedule would bring completion in line with the Regional Council schedule. Mr. Bourey replied that it would. Chairman Rimsza noted that the time frame would result in being in position by election time.

Chairman Rimsza asked if members had any new insights. Mr. Beasley stated that the compiled articles document provided an excellent history from a public standpoint. He commented that it would be useful to provide a similar document from MAG's standpoint. This could serve to explain what occurred and why. Problem areas could be identified. Mr. Bourey commented on drafting an executive summary, which could include when MAG was granted certain responsibilities, information on the 1985 sales tax ballot, the 1989 election defeat, the MAG structure, and retreat discussions. Chairman Rimsza noted that information on including the federal structure would be helpful. Mr. Cleveland stated that the evolution of the public involvement process to the Regional Council level could be included.

Ms. Dolan expressed concern that all had an equal vote. Instead of changing the voting structure, the voting mechanism may need to be changed. Ms. Dolan indicated that national models and other alternatives could be discussed. Chairman Rimsza stated that there is a lack of understanding of the MAG and RPTA processes. It would be helpful to understand their roles and how resources are

controlled. Chairman Rimsza noted that any projects need to be in the Transportation Improvement Program to get built.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary